

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Original). A human papillomavirus (HPV) pseudovirion comprising a virus-like particle (VLP) covalently linked to a reporter gene construct.

Claim 2. (Original) A pseudovirion according to Claim 1 wherein the HPV is selected from the group consisting of: HPV6a, HPV6b, HPV11, HPV16, HPV18, HPV31, HPV33, HPV35, HPV42, HPV43, HPV44, HPV45, HPV51, HPV52 and HPV56.

Claim 3. (Original) A pseudovirion according to Claim 1 wherein the VLP is comprised of L1 or L1+L2 protein.

Claim 4. (Original) A pseudovirion according to Claim 3 wherein the reporter gene construct is selected from the group consisting of: beta-lactamase gene constructs, beta galactosidase gene constructs, luciferase gene constructs and green fluorescent protein gene constructs.

Claim 5. (Original) A pseudovirion comprising a HPV VLP, a heterobifunctional crosslinker and a reporter gene construct.

Claim 6. (Original) A pseudovirion according to Claim 5 wherein the molar ratio of the reporter gene construct to VLP is from about 0.1 to 50.

Claim 7. (Original) A pseudovirion according to Claim 5, wherein the molar ratio of the reporter gene construct to VLP is about 1 to 5.

Claim 8. (Original) A pseudovirion according to Claim 5 wherein the molar ratio of the reporter gene construct to VLP is about 1 to 1.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) An assay to determine if anti-HPV neutralizing antibodies are present in a sample, comprising the steps of:

a) contacting human papillomavirus pseudovirions, a cell culture susceptible of being infected by the pseudovirions, and the sample, wherein the pseudovirions comprise a virus-like particle covalently linked to a reporter gene construct; and

b) determining if cell uptake of pseudovirions is inhibited, wherein inhibition of uptake is indicative of anti-HPV neutralizing antibodies in the sample.

Claim 10. (Original) An assay according to Claim 9 wherein the sample comprises serum from a human.

Claim 11. (Original) An assay according to Claim 10 further comprising the step of comparing the results to those obtained using a control assay.

Claim 12. (Original) An assay according to Claim 9 wherein the pseudovirions comprise a beta-lactamase gene construct.